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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,126	04/13/2004	Hideo Kato	G121-084 US	3503

21706 7590 03/22/2005
NOTARO AND MICHALOS
100 DUTCH HILL ROAD
SUITE 110
ORANGEBURG, NY 10962-2100

EXAMINER

LE, TAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,126

Applicant(s)

KATO, HIDEO

Examiner

Tan Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the first office action for application No. 10/823, 126. This application contains 8 claims numbered 1-8.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Abstract

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "said case main body and said lid portion and said arresting plate" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the arrest means" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the protruding portion" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 5,746,480 to Bonutti.

As to claim 1, Bonutti teaches a coupling device comprising (see marked-up copy): a main body portion having a long guide hole; and a movable portion.

As to claim 2, Bonutti also teaches the movable portion being slidably fitted into said main body, wherein the main body comprises: a case main body provided with a long guide groove; and a lid portion provided with a long guided hole, and wherein the movable portion comprises a head portion to be passed through said long guide hole; and a guide leg portion to be fitted into said long guide groove.

As to claim 3, Bonutti also teaches bearings to be attached to said guide leg portion of said movable portion to allow a portion of the bearing into said long guide groove.

As to claim 4, Bonutti further teaches a stopper wall provided in said guide recess portion to control rotation of said movable portion.

Regarding claim 7, Bonutti also teaches a means provided between the member to which the movable portion is attached and the movable portion

Claims 1-2 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 6,073,027 to Norman et al.

As to claim 1, Norman et al. teaches a coupling device comprising a main body portion (38) having a long guide hole (54, spring channel); and a movable portion (14, 82).

As to claim 2, Norman also teaches the movable portion (14, 82) being slidably fitted into said main body (col. 4, lines 60-65), wherein the main body comprises: a case main body provided with a long guide groove (48, 50, Fig. 6); and a lid portion provided with a long guided hole (56) and wherein the movable portion (14, 82) comprises a head portion (body of the peg 82) to be passed through said long guide hole; and a guide leg portion (head of the peg 82) to be fitted into said long guide groove.

As to claim 5, Norman also teaches an arresting means (spring plates) between said main body and said movable portion to stably halt the movable portion at a predetermined position, wherein the arresting means is composed of a pair of arresting

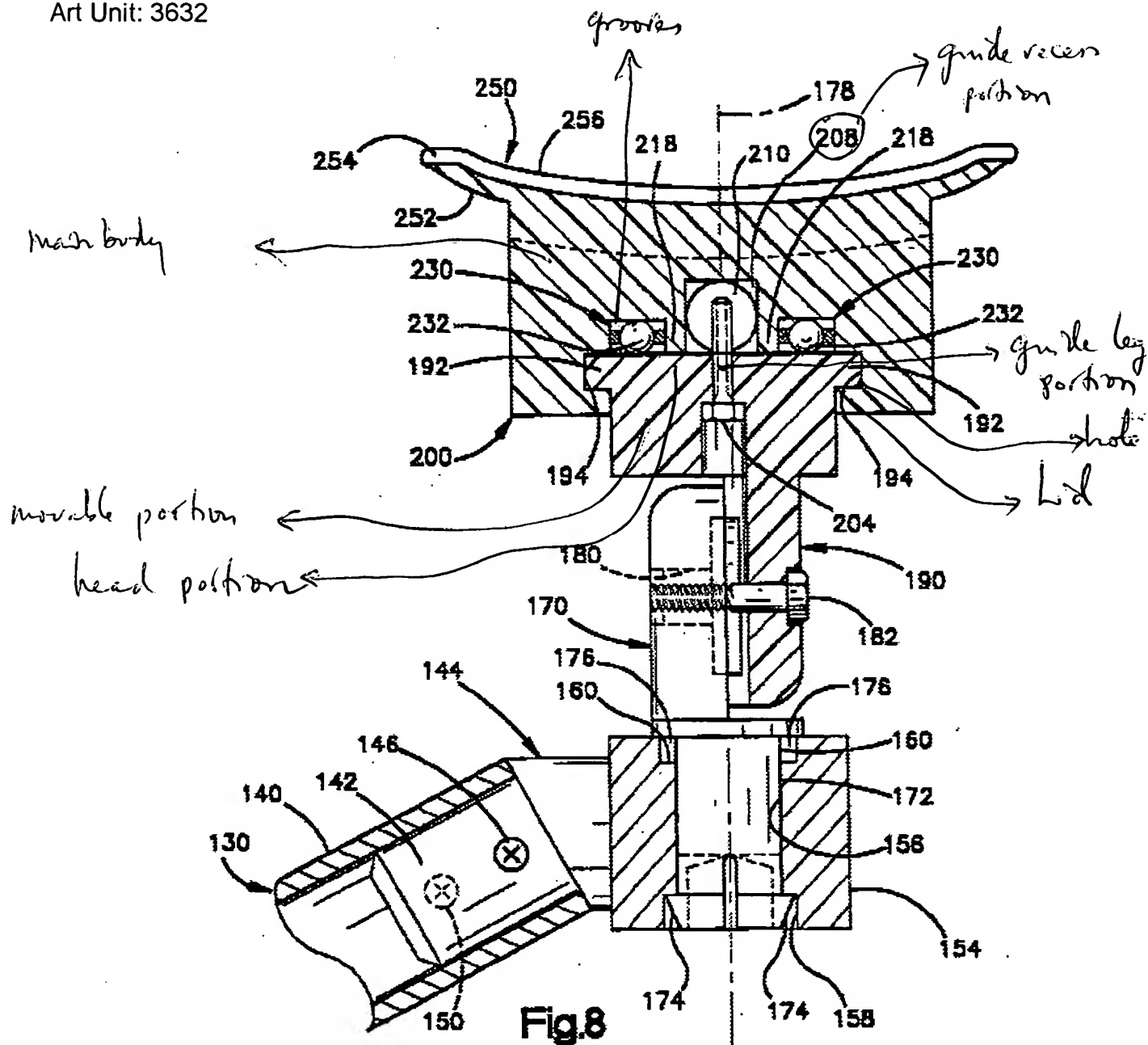
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plates slidably biased in mutually opposite directions to sandwich a portion of said movable portion.

Regarding claim 6, Norman also teaches the arresting plates being sandwiched between a case main body and a lid portion in a slidably biased state in one direction and respective both side portions are engagedly fixed with an arresting member.

Regarding claim 7, Norman also teaches a means (82) provided between the member to which the movable portion is attached and the movable portion

Regarding claim 8, Norman also shows the arrest means (arresting spring plates) comprising a protrusion portion (58) attached to the movable member in a slidable biased state in one direction and a recess portion (56) provided on the main body to receive the protruding portion.



Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5,850,954 to Dong-Joo

5,620,120 to Tien

6,519,483 to Watanable

4,406,928 to Mackenzie

6,522,529 to Huilgol et al.

5,497,359 to Yoshie

JP10-315874 to Nippon Antenna

US 2004/0206876 to Kato

US2003/0202656 to Ikeuchi et al.

US 2004/1089597 to Amitani et al.

The above patents disclose various types of coupling devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-8244.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. through Fri. from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached on (703) 308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tan Le
Patent examiner
March 11, 2005.



LESLIE A. BRAUN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER